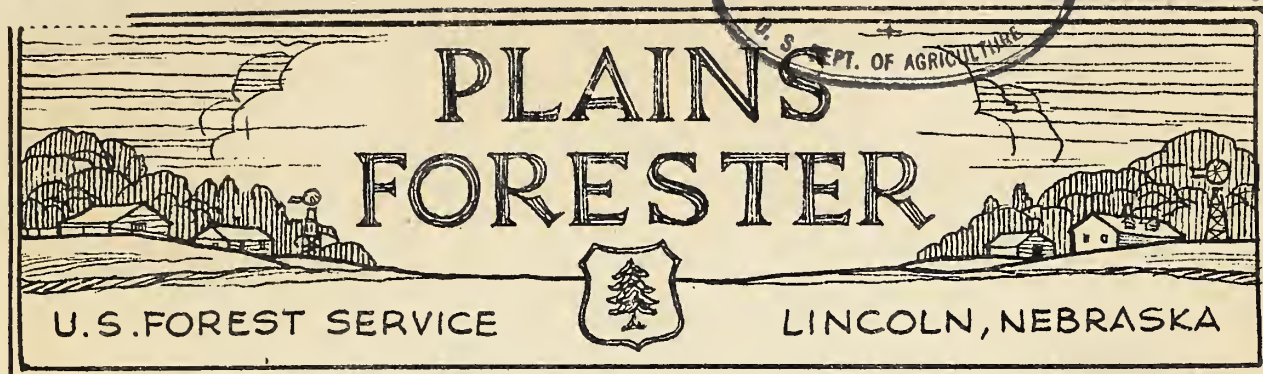
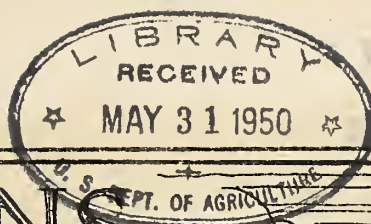


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FORESTRY'S PLACE IN THE PLAINS REGION

The emergence of civilization from the forested regions into the Prairie-Plains grassland region required profound adjustments in man's ways of life, in his manner of using and controlling the use of the land, his use of water and laws governing the use of water, and in fact his whole mode of living and the social and economic fabric surrounding it.

The effect of a grassland environment with its peculiar accompaniment of natural factors upon man's ways of life is forcibly brought out in the book "The Great Plains" by Walter Prescott Webb. He points out that these grasslands are in the main semi-arid or subhumid; that they are subject to drought, prevailing high winds, dry winds, cold "northers" and blizzards (the "grizzlies" of the Plains), and hail; and that these climatic factors occur in so much greater degree on the Plains as compared with forested regions that they constitute special hazards to occupation and to the use of the land.

It is important to view forestry on the Great Plains from the above background. Just as the windmill to raise water to the surface, and barbed wire, first to protect crop lands and later to enclose pastures, were a part of man's adaptation to Plains conditions, and just as crop agriculture has had to be adjusted through development of special technics and special strains and varieties of farm crops; so forestry can and should be adapted and used as an essential economic betterment to protect crops, livestock, and man himself from the effects of prevailing high winds; to conserve soil moisture in a region of deficient precipitation; to provide fuel, posts and other wood products in a region where they are largely lacking; and as a social benefit to add to the beauty of man's surroundings and to his general comfort and happiness.

- Paul H. Roberts, R.O.

MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN OUR SEEDLING COUNTS (OR WAS IT JUST WOLF! WOLF!)

Frequently I have heard complaints of the counts in seedling bundles on the planting job, with particular emphasis on shortages and the difficulties encountered when the crews ran out of trees because too much dependence had been placed on those counts. In some cases planters' counts instead of the nursery counts were being used to determine number of trees planted. This would never do because obviously trained men in the nurseries with nothing to do but count should more accurately determine the number of trees than planters who have many other things to do besides count. Repeated instructions have been issued to the nurserymen to watch the count. Recently I requested Mr. Engstrom to make a check of the bundles and this is what he found in the southern States:

TABULATION SHOWING VARIATION IN COUNTS IN BUNDLES OF 50 SEEDLINGS.

| <u>Number Seedlings<br/>in Bundle</u> | <u>Number Bundles<br/>Counted</u> | <u>Percent<br/>of Total</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 35                                    | 1                                 | .67                         |
| 39                                    | 1                                 | .67                         |
| 42                                    | 1                                 | .67                         |
| 47                                    | 2                                 | 1.34                        |
| 48                                    | 8                                 | 5.33 )                      |
| 49                                    | 9                                 | 6.00 )                      |
| 50                                    | 66                                | 44.00 ) 78%                 |
| 51                                    | 21                                | 14.00 )                     |
| 52                                    | 13                                | 8.66 )                      |
| 53                                    | 7                                 | 4.66                        |
| 54                                    | 5                                 | 3.33                        |
| 55                                    | 1                                 | .67                         |
| 56                                    | 2                                 | 1.34                        |
| 57                                    | 3                                 | 2.00                        |
| 58                                    | 2                                 | 1.34                        |
| 60                                    | 4                                 | 2.67                        |
| 61                                    | 1                                 | .67                         |
| 62                                    | 2                                 | 1.34                        |
| 64                                    | 1                                 | .67                         |
|                                       | <u>150</u>                        |                             |

Assuming that there might be an allowable limit of error of two seedlings per bundle, the count of 78% of the bundles could be considered as correct.

It is noteworthy that the counts have a tendency to over-run rather than be below the correct amount. The percentage of bundles having one or more seedlings over-run per bundle aggregated 48% while those having less than 50 per bundle totaled 15.33%. The total number of seedlings in the 150 bundles counted was 7,666 whereas it should have been 7,500. The total over-run was 166 or expressed in percentage terms, 2.21%. Only 3% of the bundles were short, i.e., had less than 48.

It was interesting to note that accuracy in counting varied considerably according to the source of the stock. The tabulation below gives some data as to the counts in bundles from different sources. It is, of course, evident that in some cases not enough bundles were counted from the source listed to give a true picture.



| Source<br>of Stock   | : No. of :  |   | Bundles Having |         | Miscount in Total of |          |
|----------------------|-------------|---|----------------|---------|----------------------|----------|
|                      | : Bundles : |   | Correct Count  |         | 50 Bundles Counted   |          |
|                      | : Counted : |   | No. :          | Percent | Seedlings :          | Percent* |
| Plainview            | : 20        | : | 15             | : 75.0  | : 6                  | : .6     |
| Mangum               | : 35        | : | 16             | : 45.7  | : 79                 | : 4.5    |
| Hutchinson           | : 28        | : | 6              | : 21.4  | : 51                 | : 3.6    |
| Vernon               | : 20        | : | 3              | : 15.0  | : 58                 | : 5.8    |
| Sioux Falls          | : 7         | : | 4              | : 59.0  | : 4                  | : 1.1    |
| Fremont              | : 10        | : | 4              | : 40.0  | : 12                 | : 2.4    |
| Cottonwood, Hulver   | : 5         | : | 4              | : 80.0  | : 2                  | : .8     |
| Tamarix, Childress   | : 5         | : | 1              | : 20.0  | : 7                  | : 2.8    |
| Manhattan            | : 10        | : | 9              | : 90.0  | : 10                 | : 2.0    |
| Cottonwood, Kansas   | : 5         | : | 5              | : 100.0 | : 0                  | : 0      |
| Nebraska, Cottonwood | : 5         | : | 0              | : 0     | : 24                 | : 9.6    |
|                      | :           | : | :              | :       | :                    | :        |

\*Obtained by multiplying number of bundles by 50 and dividing product into error in counting.

- D. S. Olson, R.O.

#### SHELTERBELTS AND STRAWBERRIES

An interesting statement was made to me last week by Shirley McLarty, a farmer in Ford County. Mr. McLarty stated that he had tried for years to raise strawberries on his farm. During the summer, however, when hot southwest winds came, they would dry up most of the crop. He finally came to the conclusion that he should have a shelterbelt. He planted a three-row belt of Chinese elms in 1931. He planted these six feet apart and the trees were placed six feet apart within the row. He has nearly a perfect stand. Today the trees are about 35 feet high. Mr. McLarty says that he can successfully raise strawberries now, and believes that he is the only farmer in the community who has strawberries. He also made the statement that he has cut approximately \$150.00 worth of wood for fuel and for lumber. This lumber was used in constructing a shelter for his sheep.

Mr. McLarty has a Forest Service shelterbelt which was planted in 1936 and has made application for two more miles of belt for this year.

- Ralph G. Deede, Tex.

#### WE ARE STILL FOR THE FOUR-STEP TRAINING

We have heard of many ways of training men to do certain types of jobs, and probably all of them are excellent, but we still think that for our type of tree-planting job, the Lindberg Four-Step Method is far and away the best.

In using this course for the past three seasons we have found the type of labor we employ responds readily to it where it is properly presented. It makes for uniformity of action and precision in planting that is not only interesting to watch but which enables the crew foreman to easily detect the man who is out of step and to correct. And it shows up materially in the survival counts to come later.

As an example, two absolutely green 15-man crews in Cottle County, Texas during December planted four miles in three days, following their initial training. True, there are still some ragged edges to be smoothed out, which is being done, but on the whole this does not seem bad--and we expect to improve as we go along.

- Edgar H. Kemp, Tex.

## "BY THEIR FRUITS SHALL YE KNOW THEM"

(Editor's Note: The following very excellent PR essay was contributed by a Supervisory Strawboss in Oklahoma:)

This scribe pretends to no expertness in the field of public relations, but there are some things that we fellows have to meet and deal with out in the field that are worthy of serious consideration if we are to sell ourselves and our program to the public properly, and I have a notion that there are a lot of fellows up and down the region who feel just about as I do.

As we go out to contact people in the name of the U. S. Forest Service we ought to keep in mind that the average person in areas where we work knows but little about this branch of Government Service and that he will weigh the honesty, sincerity and integrity of the Service as he sees it revealed in us. The Forest Service has a history. It is worthy history made by great men who have fought through the years for conservation of natural resources in a real American fashion. The Forest Service is making history in the Prairie States now. We are a part of the history. If what we do is done worthily and we are able to make the landowners, communities and civic organizations feel that they also have a part in the good history we are making, we shall have done well.

People like to talk. People will talk. Communities talk. Obscure characters have been made prominent, and wealthy men have been made poor by community talk. People are going to talk about us, and in what they say the Forest Service will be either exalted or abased.

Citizens know we are being paid with Government funds. Some are old-fashioned enough to still feel that they are a part of the Government. Lots of good people do not like to see a man shirking when he is being paid for working, and if an employee of the Forest Service is seen in places of questionable repute or doing things of a questionable character, that employee's part of a good program is headed for rough sledding.

We must show some respect for the other fellow's viewpoint. A man may be just as sincerely against our program as we are for it and at the same time be just as respectable and influential in private and public life as we are. To tell him to go to the bad place because he does not agree with us is neither the way to change his mind nor obtain his respect.

It should mean something to all of us that we are identified with an organization with so great a history and background as the Forest Service. Its present program in the Prairie States is a history-making program, and each of us shall, in the minds of the people we contact, add to or detract from its greatness.

- L. W. White, Okla.

## "FIXING" A SAND DUNE

Although we, the Texas foresters, do not claim as yet to be able to grow hair on a billiard ball, it is our belief that the coming year will see trees growing where the sand is bare as a ballroom floor.

One of our thriving 1936 strips is disfigured at one end by a sand dune which has continued to defy all efforts at reforestation or reseeding. It is a constant menace to the rest of the strip as well as the adjoining fields.

The farmer dreads this dune like a goat dreads water. A consultation was held with our associate forester and it was decided that it was time to "call the bluff" of this "destroyer of trees" and "blaster of crops." In cooperation with the farmer, cotton burrs were hauled from a nearby gin and the entire dune given a three-inch coat of this soil-fixing material. Our replanting crew will then plant the entire area with the largest stock available of species such as honeylocust, Chinese elm and cottonwood. If necessary, the farmer will patch up damage after each windstorm from his nearby straw stack, knowing that if he saves the trees for five years, they will save him and his farm as long as they both shall live.

- Thomas C. Croker, Jr., Tex.

#### "GUESSTIMATES" ON AVAILABLE COTTONWOOD WILDINGS

Late in August the Division of Timber Management requested information from the Units as to the availability of cottonwood wildings for collection purposes. During September, October, November, and early December, reports came in and attempts were made to adjust quotas among the States in order to assure that each State would have sufficient cottonwoods to meet the needs of its planting program. The final wind-up of the fall collection program reveals that for the Project as a whole, we fell short of collecting our needs. This in itself is not a serious matter, since collection can be carried on in the spring as well as in the fall. However, the acute shortages occurring in the two southern States where no possibility exists of local collection, will be difficult if not impossible to supply from the north because of frozen heel-in beds. The shortage of cottonwood in the south may retard their winter planting programs.

An analysis of reports received from the States reveals that for the most part the early estimates on the quantities available for collection were not reliable. A number of the States were able to collect considerably more than they reported as being available, while others fell far short of their estimates. Three reasons for the inaccuracies can be cited:

1. Delaying the scouting or examination of possible sources until late in the season.
2. Overestimating the amounts obtainable from the known sources. This was partly due to the fact that the superficial examination of the stock during scouting failed to reveal the amount which had to be culled out on account of borers, nematodes, stock trampling, etc.
3. In one case early estimates were based on a size class of approximately 1/4" caliper and on one-year stock. By going into the larger sized and older stock this State was able to collect far more than was originally reported as being available.

Because of the difficulties thus far encountered in collecting cottonwood and also because in many instances the stock obtained is not of the most desirable type, consideration is being given to growing the cottonwood from seed in our nurseries. Texas and South Dakota have demonstrated more or less by chance that this is possible and that a premium grade of stock can be produced. All that is needed to do it successfully on a large scale is to develop a practical technique for extracting, sowing, and germinating the seed. This may seem difficult of accomplishment but many of our nurserymen have expressed their opinion that it can be done.

- H. E. Engstrom, R.O.



## FOREST PLANTING ON THE PLAINS

(Condensed from an address by Dr. B. E. Fernow, Chief of the Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture, before the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture in 1890.)

The treelessness of the Central Plains has been explained by the deficient rainfall and consequent arid conditions of these localities, and until lately it has been doubted and even now there are people who doubt the possibility of growing trees and forests in those localities without irrigation.

For the larger part of this region I do not share these doubts, nor do I believe that original aridity alone accounts for the condition in which we find this large region. The fact that this area is not absolutely treeless goes far to support the proposition that it was not always forestless. The scattered tree growth found on this area suggests that forest growth once existed. It would now exist if fires had not destroyed much of it, thus disturbing the conditions which were favorable to the conservation of the scanty moisture, reforestation being prevented by continued fires and countless herds of buffaloes.

For a large part of this now almost treeless area, moisture conditions will not necessarily be a check to tree growth. We know by experience that a naked soil loses by evaporation more than six times the amount of moisture that it would under the shade of a forest cover, hence if we once establish a proper forest cover, namely, effective shading of the ground by either the foliage of the trees or the litter and mulch of the decayed leaves, and a check to the sweep of the winds, the amount of water available for the tree growth is increased in proportion.

From the interesting experiments of the Signal Service, the dependence of the rate of evaporation on the velocity of the wind has been established. With the air at a temperature of 84° and a relative humidity of 50% the evaporation under a wind of five miles an hour will be 2.2 times as rapid as in the calm air; at 10 miles, 3.8 times; at 15 miles, 4.9 times; at 20 miles, 5.7 times, and with a wind at 25 miles velocity the rate of evaporation will be 6.1 times as great as in the calm air. And as the average velocity of the wind on the Plains may be set down as 12 miles an hour there is probably at least four times as much water evaporated and dissipated as where the winds are checked, hence the value of the windbreak which reduces both the evaporation from the soil and the transpiration from the plant.

We come, then, to the conclusion that it is not deficiency of rainfall so much as rapidity of evaporation due to the unchecked winds that is detrimental to plant growth on most parts of the Plains region. What do we learn from these considerations to help us in forest planting on the Plains? Plainly this:

(1) That forest plantations in large blocks have more chance of success than small clumps of single trees, since such large plantations are alone capable of becoming self-sustaining and of improving their conditions of growth by their own influence upon moisture conditions of the soil and air.

(2) That we must not only plant densely, much more densely than is the common practice, but in the selection of kinds give predominance to such



as are capable of quickly and persistently shading the ground, creating an undergrowth and cover that will prevent evaporation, and thus make the growing of the light foliated quick-growing valuable timber possible.

I cannot here refrain from expressing my sympathy for those in the front who struggle to conquer single-handed these vast and fertile but climatically ill-favored regions. While their reclamation certainly does not appear to be an impossible undertaking, it seems almost hopeless to expect it from the pygmy efforts of the pioneer settlers lost almost in this endless treelessness.

Without means, without knowledge, without a systematic organization, without a well-conceived, methodically executed plan, without cooperative effort in close battle fronts, victory if attained can be won only after many repulses, disappointments, failures, and even those that might gain a firm foothold may in the end succumb because their neighbors failed to support their flanks.

I believe that forest planting is one of the necessary requisites to permanently reclaiming this vast domain. I believe that reafforesting this large area deforested by fire and buffaloes and consequent desiccation is not impossible. But I also believe that success can be attained only by cooperation, by strong hands working together upon a comprehensive plan on a large scale, systematically but methodically carried out by commanding knowledge, means and power such as Government only, be it State or General, can command. The present plan of allowing the skirmishers to waste their energy, their lives, is cruelty and bad generalship.

#### TEXAS NURSERIES

In the past Texas has had to depend more or less on other States to produce a part of the stock necessary to plant its quota of mileage, but this will not be the case hereafter. We have been very fortunate in being able to lease an excellent 40-acre tract of land located about 15 miles southwest of Vernon, Texas, from Mr. Faughn, for one of our 1938 nursery sites. The acreage composes the entire farm belonging to Mr. Faughn; and, although the lease calls for land only, there will be available for our use at a reasonable rental three good wells and pumps, each capable of about 250 to 300 gallons of water per minute, the whole barn for storage of tools and equipment, and a large sweet potato warehouse for office space and storage.

We have been notified that Mr. Raymond Buskirk will be transferred from Kansas to Texas, effective about January 10, to take charge of the nursery. We are pleased to hear of this arrangement - it looks very much like a loss for Kansas and a gain for Texas. Mr. Buskirk will be able to go right to work on fall or "winter" sowing as soon as he arrives.

Our other nursery will be located at Plainview again on the same site, except that it will probably be expanded from a 45- to a 60-acre nursery. Mr. Klein has not yet completed the digging of the stock produced last year, having been forced to go about half speed due to a shortage of labor. He plans, however, to complete the digging this month.

- J. Dahl, Tex.

## THE TOWNSHIP TREE COMMITTEE PLAN

Additional experience by this Unit in the use of township tree committees only adds to my belief that this approach is superior to any previously tried by us in Kansas. The field men who have worked it most successfully have been able not only to negotiate more mileage than in previous years, and with less effort, but we have been able to increase the extent of concentration of the work in a manner more satisfactory than that of previous years. While I am unable to state the exact mileage in some of the townships, we have at least one township in each of three districts where we have been able to negotiate close to 30 miles of strips.

The method depends for success on many factors, of course, but these appear to be most essential: (1) a committee of leaders; (2) the ability of the district man to get good leaders and to use them effectively; (3) the ability of the district man to explain to the committee and to the people in the township the fact that the full results of a tree planting program are had only when everyone in the township plants his proper share of trees in relation to the township as a whole. Also, it is absolutely essential that everyone realizes the advantages which trees can offer. The principle must be that farmers cooperate with themselves, not with the Forest Service, and that the Forest Service is only an assisting agency authorized to give help to farmers who are interested in benefits from trees. There is a vast difference in results obtained when farmers are made to see that they are cooperating with themselves as compared to the results obtained when farmers think they are assisting the Forest Service. The last attitude does not bring the desired end.

The help which a committee gives depends on the Forest Service field man, of course. It is necessary to train our personnel carefully so that they will realize how they need these local sponsors represented by the committee, how best to select them, and how best to use them. Some progress has been made, I believe, in this regard, but some of our men are more successful than others in using this committee plan. They are all learning fast, though, I believe, and I know of no better approach than through this method as far as Kansas is concerned. We have never been able to sign up land down here by simply announcing to the public that we were ready to receive applications for shelterbelt plantings, but I believe we have an effective method now, and it will be more effective as our organization becomes better trained and more familiar with it. I believe every member of the staff has contributed toward the development of this method.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

## LOYALTY:

If you work for a man, in heaven's name, work for him; speak well of him and stand by the institution he represents. Remember, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

If you must growl, condemn, and eternally find fault; why - resign your position and when you are on the outside, dynamite to your heart's content - but as long as you are part of the institution do not condemn it; if you do, the first high wind that comes along will blow you away, and probably you will never know why. -- Elbert Hubbard.

- Clipped by Region 2 Bulletin

## PLANTING DIFFICULTIES IN KANSAS

Dark lines appeared beneath Paul Bunyan's eyes as winter approached in Big Onion Camp. The loggers struggled valiantly to increase their daily output, but with every swish of the falling timbers the pungency of onions caused rivulets of tears to erode the hillsides. In the cook house ketchup and pepper were doubled, yet vegetables and dessert alike continued to be ef onions. Ole, the Big Swede, became more explosive, then the light of conflict faded entirely from his eyes, as with tears streaming over his countenance he refused his ration of onion tainted "snuce" and took to his bunk.

Johnny Inkslinger earned the everlasting gratitude of Paul, and at the same time turned the onions into a nice profit when he negotiated a contract with Italy to dispose of the vegetables. A beautiful loving cup from the King of Italy attested to the fact that an onion famine had been averted, and the Italian people had been saved from revolution.

The crews were doubled to make up the lost time, but heavy snow set in and blocked the tote roads so that the loggers soon became dissatisfied on account of the shortage of beefsteaks, and gloom once more settled over the camp. With a sad heart Paul finally gave out the order that Little Willie, the Blue Ox's mate, should be slaughtered to supply the meat shortage. With an abundance of juicy steaks the logging proceeded with a vigor that exceeded Paul's wildest expectations until in early spring the rollways were piled high on the river banks.

Paul, though never frugal, was not wasteful, and as fast as each crew completed its logging quota it was set at a new task - canning the meat from the Blue Ox's mate, which still remained unconsumed in vast quantities. All the factories were taken over and new ones were built so that by utilizing all of the resources at his command, Paul was able to complete both the logging and the canning before the spring thaw.

Many times in later years Paul would stand vainly admiring himself in the mirror with the Congressional Distinguished Service medal adorning his Sunday suit. Paul Bunyan stood out as the hero of the great war, since he had solved the problems of many quartermasters, not only during the great conflict but even to this day, when canned Willie fills to overflowing the mess kits.

Planting conditions in Kansas have taken on difficulties approaching in seriousness the tragedies of the Big Onion camp. Cold weather in November and December, like the tear gas from the onions, has slowed down planting so that now our heel-in beds are filled to capacity with seedlings which will need to be taken care of in early spring. Careful planning, rapid multiplication of activities, and the sagacity of Paul Bunyan are indicated, lest excess planting stock, instead of beef, be on hand at the end of the spring planting season.

- Wm. G. Baxter, Kans.

## SOUND PHILOSOPHY

The man who is worthy of being the leader of men will never complain of the stupidity of his helpers, the ingratitude of mankind, nor the unappreciation of the public. These things are all a part of the great game of life, and to meet them and not go down before them in discouragement and defeat, is the final proof of power.

- Elbert Hubbard (Clipped)



## THE MAN ST. PETER LIKED

No man who plants a tree can be wholly bad.

Whoever he is, he has been host to the future in good faith. He is for Mankind. So, I think he will go to his Heaven wherever that is.

This man who plants a tree is the man who makes all the difference to tomorrow between the shiftless, hopeless town or home and the shaded, fruitful village and the happy home.

Trees planted or trees saved are the best proofs we have that man is not vile...nor wholly selfish.

Thirty years ago, my uncle planted a group of firs at Taliesin. They are now fifty feet tall--a mass of deep green, summer and winter. I look at them and take my hat off to him. They prove him to have been a man of quality...so much better than any headstone or any tale of his deeds.

As for "Heaven" I am sure Saint Peter at the Gate asks "Did the man plant a tree?" "Yes, your reverence." "Did the tree live?" "Yes, your holy eminence." A pause... "Ah," says the venerable Saint. "I had almost forgotten." And he would add another question--"Did he plant the tree in a good place?" "Yes, your worship." "Then open the gate wide! Let the man come in and go where he pleases."

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Were the answer "No" to the first question--"did the man plant a tree"--St. Peter would stand the man aside ...outside...under suspicion...something must be wrong with him.

Were the answer "No" to the second question--"did the tree live"--St. Peter would say: "Too bad--good impulses but improvident...let the man sit down just inside the Gate...we will consider him. He probably neglected to water the tree."

Were the answer "No" to the last question--"did the man plant the tree in the right place"--St. Peter would sadly shake his wise old head and say "Never mind! Few do...it is enough that you now know you planted the tree in the wrong place." And the saintly gatekeeper would smile additional welcome.

Whoever plants a tree takes out insurance against Hell.

Nature will take care of him.

He is her own Son.

- Frank Lloyd Wright (In "Coronet")

## A NURSERYMAN VIEWS THE PLANTING WORK

Approximately two years have passed since I was in close contact with the field planting activities for any length of time. It is indeed a pleasure to see the things that have developed within this period.

Now, completely rigged planting crew trucks with organized crews of planters are being dispatched like a fast express. There is no fuss nor confusion apparent.

One sees the district or subdistrict heel-in bed with a full stock of fresh, large (this is Texas) healthy trees ready for the planting truck each day.

The simplified two-man marking crew step off a truck. They have the planting row marked off faster than the tree tender can fill the planting trays with trees. You see the squad move down the field as though it were at dress parade, each planter functioning with the same precise motions. By night, well over a half mile of strip will have been set in its place.

Systematized records for the foreman paint the picture of every man and every crew's progress, without verbosity or occasioning excessive work.

The concentration of the plantings in some sections is remarkable. One could take a map of such areas and plan out a full day's travel afoot which would keep him within shelterbelt strips except when crossing roads, and never have to back-track.

This seedling project of ours is still a very young tree, but its roots are daily going deeper; surprising top growth can be expected.

- Norman A. Devick, Tex.

(On detail from North Dakota)

#### : NEBRASKA :

The "unusual" has happened. For the first time in the history of the Project in Nebraska, a district has reached its strip mileage quota three months prior to the planting season. The Neligh District reached its "goal" of 300 miles on January 1 and applications are still coming in. It certainly is going to be a pleasure to say, "Mr. Farmer, we're sorry we can't plant a strip for you this year as they are all taken." Boy! What a pleasure that will be.

- E. Garth Champagne

\*\*\*\*\*

Two carloads of nursery stock were loaded at Fremont during December and January for transfer to Oklahoma and Texas.

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Considerable progress has been made in lands negotiations work during the past month. The Neligh District quota of 300 miles of strip has been completed and an additional 30 miles will be lined up as a safety factor. While progress in the other districts has been somewhat slower, we now have two-thirds of the 900-mile quota signed up.

#### : NORTH DAKOTA :

In the course of our negotiation work we often pick up new ideas from our cooperators. Last month we contacted a man whose sole reason for wanting a shelterbelt was stated this way: His neighbor, it seems, is very shiftless when it comes to the suppression or eradication of noxious weeds, while he has a strip of land several rods wide on the west side of his farm that he keeps under the plow continually in order to kill out the mustard that blows on his land from his neighbor on the west. He feels quite certain that a good shelterbelt will stop this entirely, and that one such belt on every quarter section would help immeasurably in the control of these pests. He says, "Stop the blowing and the seeds will stay where they fall and eventually force the owner to take some action or suffer his own loss--alone."

- Bert DeMent

: TEXAS :

The detailed personnel from the Northern States have learned that the "Sunny South" is not always sunny - especially in the winter time. The weather man has seen fit to already hand out as much bad weather this season as occurred over the entire season last year. The monthly weather report of the Chillicothe Experiment Station for December showed six "Northerners," two sleet, one rain, and several "misty" days. For the information of those who never have felt one, there wasn't a real "Norther" in the lot. If and when we do get an "Old Blue" the boys will all write home about it.

The work of the various Districts is so far apart that little opportunity has been had for getting together. Arthurs and Gill are at Shamrock, Krieger at Paducah, Davis at Turkey, Devick at Childress, Moffet and Deede at Vernon, and Hutchinson and Wulf at Wichita Falls. Incidentally the last four are having an opportunity to see and experience a real "oil boom," as what looks like the world's largest producing field is now being drilled in between Wichita Falls and Vernon. This "boom" is a cause of real concern to those whose families are stationed in Wichita Falls as there is no certainty that houses will not be sold out from under them as the incoming oil people seek locations. There may be some "Trailer Tintypes" on this Project yet.

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Nurseryman Klein at Plainview writes in that he has not much news to report but he makes the following statement as a sort of stimulus to the District Officers:

"If any districts are having trouble signing up enough strips, they should transfer their districts to Plainview. We have had at least 30 or 40 requests here at the nursery for shelterbelts and woodlot plantings, some of the people calling as many as three times. I think that we should have to have diplomats rather than negotiators if we started plantings here."

: OKLAHOMA :

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Ruth Purdy to the position of Junior Stenographer in the Oklahoma City Office.

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Quoting from the latest revision of Outline of Cost Activities: "\*26.134 - Replanting fourth year - actual operations." I believe this refutes the adage that foresters - or should I say cost accountants - are optimists.

- L. A. Williams

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Mother Nature, who had been very cold-shouldered during the latter half of November and the first part of December, finally smiled upon us and gave us the kind of weather the doctor ordered for the latter part of December. As a result, we made rapid progress with the replanting job, completing 235 miles, or more than one-half of this work. No new planting was completed during this period.

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The stock in the nurseries has all been dug, and practically all species ran a little higher than the estimates.

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Senior Clerk Harold Cramer, from the Nebraska State Office, has joined our detail delegation and has been assigned to the District Office at Mangum, Oklahoma.

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State Director Nelson has just returned from a trip to Arizona.

- A. N. Butler



: KANSAS :

The fencing crew at Great Bend did such a good job of fencing on one of the 1938 strips that the farmer hired the whole crew to come out and build fence for him one day while they were off from their work with the Forest Service.

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Mr. Taylor from North Dskota gave seven lectures and a radio broadcast in the St. John District during one week in December. One illustrated lecture was given to a high school group of 256 pupils and created considerable interest, according to comments heard afterward. Another lecture was given before a vocational agriculture group in another high school, and after the lecture we received an invitation from the vocational instructor to take the group out on a trip next spring to see some of the strips. The other lectures were to farmers at Farm Bureau and ACP meetings; after each meeting we talked with the farmers and gave them an opportunity to sign up.

- Glenn W. Spring

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If you should happen to visit the Kansas Unit, you would soon notice our "new" stenographer, Virginia Martin. She has been transferred from our Hutchinson Office in order that she may learn the State Office procedure. It is hard to say at present just which department Virginia will be in as each department seems to have some good ideas as to what she should know - and incidentally to get a few long, tedious jobs out of the way. May the best man win!

- Mary Mullen

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The Russell Reitz home has been the scene of two recent gatherings of local Forest Service personnel and their families.

The first was a Christmas party which opened with a delicious potluck dinner. A short program which followed included a Christmas reading by Mrs. Malcolm Stuart, a vocal solo by Russell Reitz, an instrumental number by Esther and Meta Baxter and Victor Goodwin, a violin solo by Mrs. Raymond Buskirk, a chalk talk by John Hall, and Christmas songs by the group.

Malcolm Stuart did the pinch hitting for Santa and distributed gifts to both adults and kiddies.

The remainder of the evening was spent in playing games of various sorts, the most popular of which proved to be ping pong.

The second party, held on January 8, was in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stuart and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Buskirk. The Stuarts plan to leave on February 1 for Lincoln, Nebraska where Mr. Stuart has been transferred to take charge of Project procurements and related activities in the Regional Office. The Buskirk family have already gone to Vernon, Texas where Mr. Buskirk will have charge of one of the Texas Unit nurseries.

A round of games including bridge, Chinese checkers, monopoly and ping pong was followed by a delicious lunch served by Mrs. Reitz.

State Director Reitz spoke briefly paying high tribute to the quality of work performed and to the loyalty shown to the organization by both Mr. Stuart and Mr. Buskirk who are the two oldest members of the Kansas Unit in length of service.

On behalf of the local Unit personnel, Mr. Reitz presented an electric clock to each of the departing families.

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Victor O. Goodwin, who has been in charge of Range Examination work in connection with the Range Conservation Program of the AAA in Kansas since last April successfully completed his phase of the work on January 3. "Vic" is being retained to assist with the land negotiation work under the Forestation program.

- John D. Hall

: REGIONAL OFFICE :

There was considerable gloating and some rubbing of tummies by the men in the Regional Office on the day after the bowling match between the girls and the men recently. We tried to convince them they shouldn't eat so much that late at night, but nothing would do but they must have beer, sandwiches, ice cream and coffee. As to the bowling match itself we have little to say. We femmes admit with placid resignation that a stenographer's place in life is bent over a typewriter rather than a bowling ball. On the other hand, another time and maybe one W.B.I. won't be able to pick a 218 game out of the air quite so easily. Mr. Bartos promised, before witnesses, that when (not if) the girls win from the men, a chicken dinner will be the reward. He's a mighty game guy; thinks, I suppose, that he will have won enough midnight lunches in the meantime to make up for it. Anyway, that's a promise we're not likely to forget, Otto!

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Winter vacationing seems to be quite the thing. Miss Magnuson has spent three weeks in California, and Mark Thomas is now in New Mexico. Doubtless when he gets back he and somebody else we know will start batting Spanish idioms back and forth like a tennis ball, quien sabe?

\*\*\*\*\*

Otto Bartos, Malcolm Stuart, and Harold Swim have been playing "Going to Jerusalem" or some such, and on the last move Bartos goes to Nebraska, Swim to Kansas, and Stuart will come to the Regional Office.

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Roger Raymond Bennett, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bennett, weighed in at  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds at the Lincoln General Hospital on January 17. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett. Incidentally, Mr. Bennett has recently been promoted to Deputy Fiscal Agent on this Project.

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Congratulations, also, to Elton Howland, Regional Office Messenger, who was married on Christmas Day. Just in case Mrs. Howland can't cook, the Regional Office presented the newlyweds with an electric sandwich grill.

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Mr. Perkins Coville of the Washington Office (State and Private Forestry) is spending about a month on this Project.

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If you're very observant you may have noticed the very attractive ring Miss Beulah Bowen is wearing on her left hand since Christmas. She isn't putting out much information concerning it, but will, upon questioning, blush obligingly.

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.

RIPLEY OUGHT TO PAY TEN BUCKS FOR THIS ONE!

Harry K. Ebel, on detail to Fiscal Control, had been having some trouble with his spare tire. Finally one of his other tires let him down, and he had the spare put on, only to have it do the same thing. Upon removing the inner tube, a full-size hammer was found in the tire, between the tube and the casing, where it had been left by some careless service man. The humor of the situation was more or less lost on Harry inasmuch as he had to buy a new tire. However, he hopes to set off this expense by a \$5.00 reward from "Believe It or Not."

- Elmer Hurren, R.O.